

Skywarn Spotter News

SILVERTON TORNADO
PHOTO BY TIM MANLEY



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The National Weather Service would again like to express appreciation to our severe storm spotter volunteers. Spring is on the way and the convection season looms ahead, with increasing potential for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, and lightning. We will be conducting two spotter training classes in April in the Salem and Eugene areas. See map on the opposite page for places and times. We'll also be holding other spotter training sessions in the Portland metro area and on the coast during the next couple of months (times and dates to be determined). The picture above shows a tornado that touched down near Salem a few years back. Tornadoes can hit anywhere and even the small ones can cause injuries or death. Please carry the unlisted spotter number with you so that you can call us from any location if you encounter severe weather. We invite you to visit our website at www.wrh.noaa.gov/portland/ and the spotter area and storm sections there. The web site has real time Doppler radar and satellite pictures, along with forecasts and warning products to keep you abreast of the developing weather patterns that could bring severe weather to your

area. Our thanks to our web master, Clinton Rockey for his hard work on that site. NOAA weather radio can be carried with you to stay abreast of warnings and advisories. During the recent wind event that downed trees in the southern Willamette valley, weather spotters were on the phones and provided us with critical input on the storm's progress and strength. We will present storm damage pictures from this event at our spotter classes from the storm survey conducted by our Warning and Coordination Meteorologist, Tyree Wilde. We will present information on these types of windstorms at our weather talks. If anyone needs new rain gages or spotter manuals please let us know. We have a good supply right now. Danny Mercer recently moved to our office from Reno and both he and I (Dave Willson), will be handling the spotter program together now. We also have a new Warning and Coordination Meteorologist, Tyree Wilde, who moved here from Flagstaff Arizona since the last newsletter.